

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /068 W

----- 008411

O R 051159Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4533

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, SF, PFOR, PINT, PINS, ZA

SUBJ: SITHOLE RELEASE: SMITH'S STATEMENT

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF TEXT OF IAN SMITH'S
RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS EVENING OF APRIL 4 ANNOUNCING
RELEASE OF REV. NDABANINGI SITHOLE FROM DETENTION.

QUOTE

A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY IN OUR
PART OF THE WORLD AND ACCORDINGLY I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP
A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME IN ORDER TO PUT YOU IN THE PICTURE.

ON THE CONSTRUCTIVE SIDE, LET ME INFORM YOU THAT THE WEEK
BEFORE LAST, IN THE COMPANY OF SOME OF MY CABINET COLLEAGUES,
I HAD A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR TALKS WITH THE
SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

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OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE BOTH CONSTRUCTIVE AND AMICABLE AND FURTHERED

THE COURSE OF DETENTE.

I TELL YOU THIS BECAUSE IT IS CONTRARY TO NEWSPAPER SPECULATION.
THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED AT MY REQUEST.....

THE GOVERNMENT WAS HEAVILY CRITICIZED FOR THE ACTION WE TOOK IN
DETAINING THE REVEREND SITHOLE. YOU ARE ALL AWARE THAT HIS CASE
WAS HEARD IN AN OPEN COURT AND YOU WILL ALSO BE AWARE OF THE
JUDGMENT DELIVERED BY THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE IN THE SPECIAL
COURT ON WEDNESDAY.

I BELIEVE THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THAT JUDGMENT ALL FAIR-MINDED
PEOPLE WILL AGREE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE FAILED IN ITS
DUTY HAD IT NOT TAKEN FIRM AND POSITIVE ACTION AGAINST THE LEADER
OF ZANU.

IT WILL NOT HAVE ESCAPED YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERN-
MENT HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION ON A MUCH
LARGER SCALE AGAINST THE SAME ORGANIZATION.

I NOW WISH TO PUT YOU IN THE PICTURE ON A DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS
TAKEN PLACE DURING THE LAST TWO DAYS. AS A RESULT OF A REQUEST
FROM BISHOP MUZOREWA, SUPPORTED BY THE FOUR NORTHERN PRESIDENTS
AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE AGREED TO ALLOW REV
SITHOLE TO ATTEND THE DAR-ES-SALAAM CONFERENCE OF THE OAU, WHICH
IS TO TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK.

NO DOUBT SOME OF YOU WILL BE CONCERNED TO HEAR THIS NEWS.
IN ALL HONESTY, I MUST TELL YOU THAT IT NOT A DECISION TO
WHICH THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT READILY AGREED. HOWEVER, WE WERE
ASSURED THAT TO DO SO, WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY ASSIST THE CAUSE OF
DETENTE.

THIS IS THEREFORE A FURTHER INDICATION OF OUR GOODWILL AND
SERIOUS ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE DETENTE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
WE CAN BUT HOPE FOR SOME MEASURE OF RECIPROCITY FROM THE OTHER
RHODESIANS PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXERCISE.

AT THIS STATE, I MAKE AN APPEAL TO ALL OF YOU FOR CALM AND UNDER-
STANDING DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD. BOTH POLITICALLY AND
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ECONOMICALLY WE ARE GOING THROUGH ONE OF THE MOST EXACTING
STAGES THAT WE HAVE EVER KNOWN.

AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, I FIND GREAT DIFFICULTY IN RESISTING
MY NATURAL INCLINATION TO ADOPT A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND A
MORE OFFENSIVE ROLE. I AM SATISFIED ON THE EVIDENCE BEFORE
ME THAT THIS IS A SACRIFICE WHICH ALL OF US RHODESIANS MUST BE
PREPARED TO MAKE AT THIS TIME.

HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR ME TO LEAD ANYBODY TO BELIEVE THAT I HAVE ANY INTENTION OF ASSUMING A DEFENSIVE POSITION.

I BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY OF DESCRIBING THE PRESENT SITUATION IS TO SAY THAT WE ARE WAITING IN ANTICIPATION FOR THAT MOMENT WHICH CANNOT BE FAR OFF, WHEN THE PICTURE BEFORE US SHOULD CLEAR AND ENABLE US ONCE AGAIN TO EMBARK DECISIVELY ON OUR FUTURE COURSE.

FINALLY, I WANT TO REASSURE YOU THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ACT IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL RHODESIANS, WHATEVER THEIR RACE, COLOR OR CREED, WITH THE OBJECT OF ACHIEVING STABILITY, AND PROMOTING RACIAL HARMONY IN OUR COUNTRY.

IT FOLLOWS THAT IN PURSUING THIS POLICY, WE WILL PRESERVE THE HIGH STANDARDS OF CIVILIZATION WHICH PAST GENERATIONS OF RHODESIANS HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE. UNQUOTE
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